

**Opening Statement  
The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs  
Tuesday, May 3, 2011**

**Oversight Hearing entitled “At Risk: American Jobs, Agriculture, Health and Species – the  
Costs of Federal Regulatory Dysfunction”**

Thank you Chairman Hastings and Chairman Lucas.

Clearly, it is important for our agricultural communities to be able to use a variety of pest management tools, including pesticides, to provide safe, affordable food for our nation. In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we are acutely aware of the high costs of food on local communities, since most of our food is imported to our islands.

However, in regulating pesticides, we must ensure that all food is produced safely, from crops to fish, and that jobs in both the agriculture and fishing industries are protected. We must also strive to strike the right balance between producing food cost-effectively, and protecting human health and the environment.

I commend the agencies before us for undertaking a National Academy of Sciences review on specific scientific and technical issues related to assessing the risks of pesticides on endangered salmon. I also look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that all of these agencies have the resources needed to complete these consultations in a timely and transparent manner. We must find ways to support the protection of endangered species, agricultural and fishing jobs, and human health and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today on their ideas on how to move forward with these efforts.